

RUSSIA'S LANDSCAPE AND HISTORY

Enrichment Activity

The Kremlin

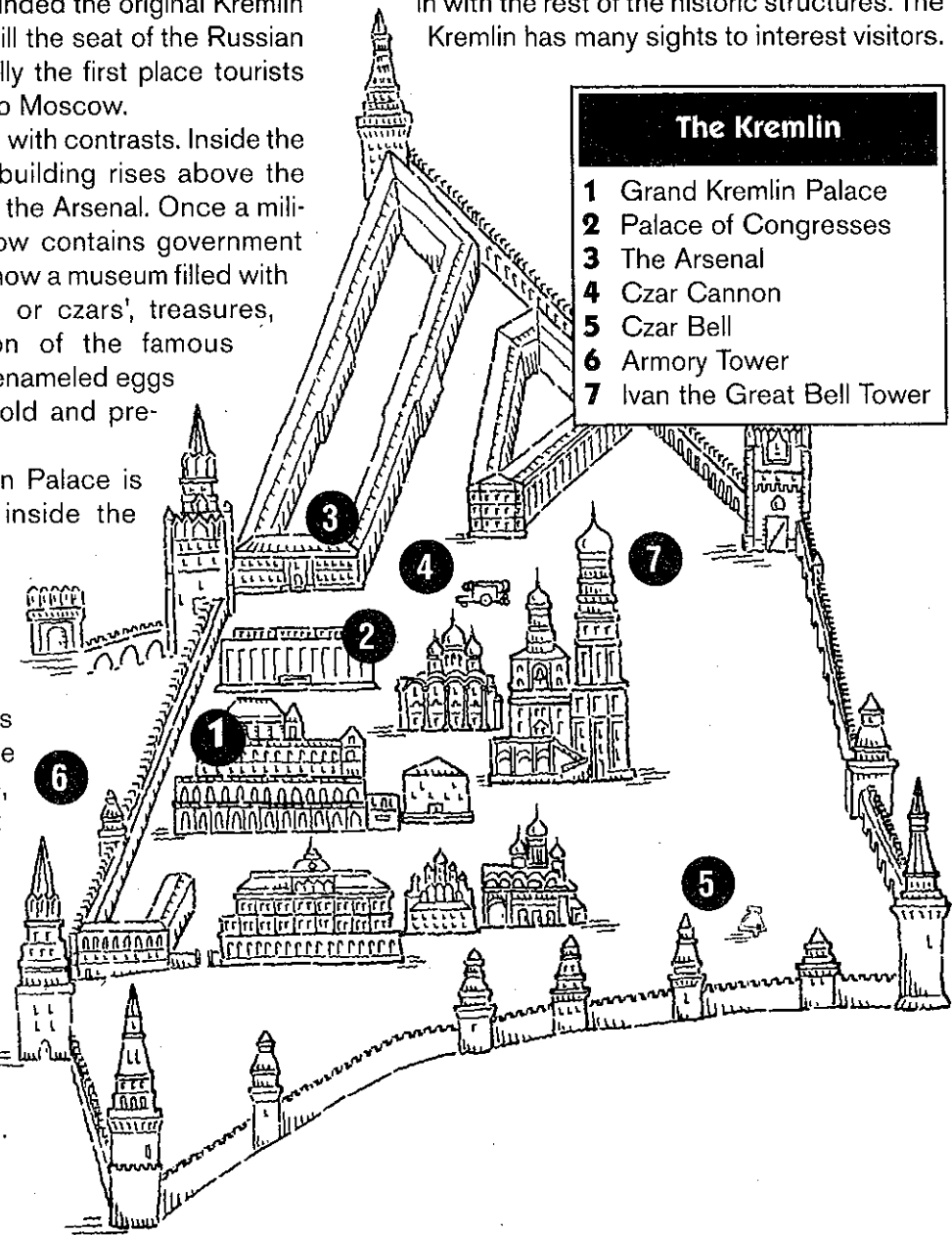
Directions: Read the following article about the Kremlin in Moscow, Russia. Then answer the questions that follow.

The Kremlin was Moscow's original fortress. (The word *kremlin* means fortress. A wall was built around Moscow to protect the city.) Over many centuries the city expanded as ring after ring of buildings surrounded the original Kremlin walls. The Kremlin is still the seat of the Russian government. It is usually the first place tourists visit when they come to Moscow.

The Kremlin is filled with contrasts. Inside the walls, a large yellow building rises above the Kremlin's walls. This is the Arsenal. Once a military storage site, it now contains government offices. The Armory is now a museum filled with the Russian leaders', or czars', treasures, including a collection of the famous Fabergé eggs. These enameled eggs are decorated with gold and precious stones.

The Grand Kremlin Palace is the largest building inside the walls. Near the palace is the Square of the Cathedrals. Three gold-domed cathedrals contain beautiful artwork by famous Russian artists. At the edge of the square, near the Ivan the Great Bell Tower, is a huge, cracked bell. The Czar Bell weighs 200 tons and is the world's largest bell. Near the bell squats the 40-ton Czar Cannon. It is the world's largest gun.

The Palace of Congresses, built in 1967, is the only modern building inside the Kremlin walls. Built to house the Soviet Parliament, the large glass and aluminum building does not seem to fit in with the rest of the historic structures. The Kremlin has many sights to interest visitors.



The Kremlin

- 1 Grand Kremlin Palace
- 2 Palace of Congresses
- 3 The Arsenal
- 4 Czar Cannon
- 5 Czar Bell
- 6 Armory Tower
- 7 Ivan the Great Bell Tower

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Enrichment Activity (continued)

Taking Another Look

1. What was the original purpose of the Kremlin?

2. What makes the Czar Bell unusual?

3. Where can the Fabergé eggs be seen?

4. Why do the Arsenal and the Armory no longer contain weapons and military items?

5. **Making Inferences** Why might the Palace of Congresses seem out of place inside the Kremlin walls?
